

Dear School Food Service Directors and School Authorities,

The [Keep Kids Fed Act of 2022](#), which President Biden signed into law on June 25, 2022, provides additional support and resources to help Child Nutrition Program operators continue to serve healthy meals to children during this challenging time.

While the Act does not extend the broader waiver authority or the resources that would allow USDA to extend the full range of flexibilities currently in place—most notably the ability to serve all meals for free—it is a critical step forward.

Specifically, the Act makes the following changes:

- Extends USDA's authority to issue nationwide waivers for summer meal programs through September 2022 which includes the extension of Area Eligibility waivers for summer meals operated at an Open site. This extension does not permit Grab-n-go meals. The extension will be effective as of July 1, 2022. DESE will be sending out additional details soon.
- Extends the waiver to allow school food authorities to claim National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option meals and snacks at the Summer Food Service Program reimbursement rates through September 30, 2022. This waiver applies to State agencies administering, and local organizations operating, the National School Lunch Program Seamless Summer Option in summer 2022. This waiver was originally set to expire on June 30, 2022 and has been extended.
- For school year (SY) 2022-23, provides temporary additional reimbursements of:
  - 40 cents per lunch served through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP);
  - 15 cents per breakfast served through the School Breakfast Program (SBP); and
  - 10 cents per meal or snack served in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

Note that the annual adjustments to the reimbursement rates for NSLP, SBP, and CACFP will be published in July. The rate adjustment will be based on an increase of 7.4% from May 2021 to May 2022 in the [Consumer Price Index](#) for "food away from home." USDA announced the [SFSP rates for CY 2022](#) in January.

Our office is working to implement these changes and get information about waiver opportunities to schools as quickly as possible to prepare to return to normal National School Lunch Program (NSLP) standards for SY 2022-23.

Visit our DESE Food and Nutrition Services website to keep up with [News and Updates](#) and other recent [Newsletters](#) you may have missed.

**THANK YOU,**

DESE Food and Nutrition Services

